

TOWN OF MANSFIELD  
Solid Waste Advisory Committee  
Minutes of the Meeting  
May 21, 2015

Present: Jane Knox, Bob Coughlin, Noaris Burgos, Andy Ames, Rita Kornblum, Virginia Walton (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 by chair Jane Knox.

Introductions were made. Rita Kornblum expressed interest in serving on the committee, and Andy Ames announced that she was resigning.

The March 5, 2015 meeting minutes were reviewed and a few errors were corrected. The minutes were approved as amended on a motion by Ames/Coughlin.

May 2, 2015 Rid Litter Day was evaluated. Suggestions for next year's Rid Litter Day included changing the date to early April in order to recruit UConn students, registering participants so that they can be surveyed afterward, and enlisting girl scouts and boy scouts in January. The past two years Mansfield has been invited to participate in an International Mansfield Clean Up Day that originates out of Mansfield, UK. Walton will find out if this happens on a regularly scheduled basis. If so, members were interested in promoting both litter clean-up days next year.

Walton stated she has approached the school PTAs about championing food waste reduction next school year. Using the King County, Washington website "Food Too Good To Waste" as a guide, the schools could promote a household food waste challenge. Kornblum offered to inquire about whether EO Smith High School might run the website information on their school televisions. Walton will contact King County for more information and permission to use website content. It was suggested that the grocery stores may be willing partners. Kornblum will send an e-mail to Big Y's staff nutritionist, Keri Spelding, to gauge the store's interest.

In addition to promoting food waste reduction, the committee discussed next steps now that a "Near Zero Waste" resolution has been adopted by Town Council. With a paper reduction pilot underway, a Town Hall waste audit could be the next step. There was discussion about offering a contest to businesses to come up with inventive ways of being less wasteful. Like last year, a letter from the committee will be sent prior to the Celebrate Mansfield Festival to the businesses surrounding the town square about reducing waste.

Members expressed interest in touring Willimantic Waste Paper before the end of the school year, June 22. Walton will arrange and try to coordinate it so that emptied loads of Mansfield's residential recyclables are available to examine.

Walton reported that the transfer station supervisor is observing quite a bit of contamination in the recycle roll-off container and requested intervention. A tentative date of Saturday, June 13 was discussed to set up a table by the recycle container to "Test Your Recycling IQ". Kornblum and Knox volunteered to help. Walton will inquire if CT DEEP has any relevant displays that illustrate a clean recycle sort.

The CT DEEP recently announced recycling grants that are available to municipalities. Walton will apply for the rewards grant, due mid-June, that offers cash awards to municipalities with outstanding programs. Walton suggested applying for the innovations grant to fund website design and implementation of a "Food Too Good To Waste" campaign.

### Recycling Coordinator's Report

1. Walton stated that the transfer station demonstration project review is completed and going through the channels of signatures at CT DEEP.
2. There were 125 participants in organic land care workshops and 47 compost bin sold. Walton recommended offering both programs next spring.
3. Walton has been inspecting the multi-family recycle dumpsters. Where there was very little recycling before the dumpsters, recycling has increased; heavy contamination appears to be sporadic and associated with moving out. One of the recycle dumpsters was burned at Carriage House Apartments but it has been replaced.
4. The next Repair Café is scheduled for June 27, 2015.

Because of scheduling conflicts the next meeting will be July 9 rather than the original date of July 2. The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton  
Recycling/Refuse Coordinator